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TITLE: HIV/AIDS in a Late-Middle Aged and Elderly Puerto Rican Population

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OBJECTIVES: To characterize and describe HIV-infected patients of advanced age who seek health services at the public facilities of the health region of Bayamón, Puerto Rico and to compare this population with the younger sample complement.

METHODS: A subsample of subjects (n = 145) aged 50 or older was taken from the *HIV Central Registry* of the *Retrovirus Research Center*.

RESULTS: Study subjects comprise 7.6% of total registry. Twenty-one percent were women; the study of the spectrum of HIV risk behaviors revealed that 55% (67% among females, 52% among males) had heterosexual sex with risky partner(s); 22% of the males indicated having sex with other males; 37% (17% among females, 43% among males) had used injectable drugs; less than 1% had received a blood product transfusion. Clinical manifestation variables: 31% had history or presence of an AIDS-defining condition at presentation to facilities. Most common AIDS-defining conditions: esophageal candidiasis (10.3%), PCP (9%), the wasting syndrome (7.6%) and toxoplasmosis (4%). Mean CD4 count was 250 cells /mm³. Modal performance score (Karnofsky) was 60 (23%). Almost 16% of subjects died within baseline assessment.

CONCLUSIONS: Puerto Rican HIV-infected patients with advanced age are similar to younger ones in clinical aspects and only differ from these in behavioral, cultural matters. *Acknowledgment.* RCMI/NIH grant G12RR03035.

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